

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

31 JUL 1974

Honorable J. W. Fulbright, Chairman
Foreign Relations Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D. C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

It has come to my attention that the Foreign Relations Committee will soon consider Senator James Abourezk's amendment No. 1511 to S. 3394, which amends the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961. Since the amendment would adversely impact on the Central Intelligence Agency's relationships with foreign intelligence and internal security services and impair programs important to the national interest, we are submitting our comments directly.

Senator Abourezk's amendment considerably expands the restriction on U. S. support to police and related programs that was enacted last year as part of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1973. The 1973 restrictions apply only to activities funded under the Foreign Assistance Act whereas Senator Abourezk's amendment would extend the restriction to specified activities funded under any law. Another important aspect of Senator Abourezk's amendment is that it applies restrictions not just to involvement with foreign police services and related programs as the 1973 law did but also to "internal security forces of any foreign government or any program of internal intelligence. . . ."

The amendment would appear to restrict activities now undertaken by the CIA under the National Security Act of 1947 for the purpose of obtaining foreign intelligence information from cooperative foreign security and intelligence services, some of which are within national police forces. In addition, in many areas of the world the protection of U. S. personnel, installations and security interests depends heavily on the effectiveness and support of foreign internal security services, as does effective action to counter terrorist activities and narcotics traffic. An essential ingredient of many CIA relationships with foreign security and intelligence services is some limited and specialized training and other support, as well as the

exchange of information and advice. If the Agency were restricted in these activities, our ability to perform our assigned intelligence mission would be severely curtailed.

It is noted that the amendment specifically exempts from its proscriptions assistance rendered under the authority of the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Federal Bureau of Investigation. This Agency obtains information on illicit narcotics traffic, international terrorism and hijacking through internal intelligence programs of foreign countries and from internal security forces of foreign governments. But this is done not under the authority of the DEA or FBI but under the authority and responsibility of this Agency as spelled out in the National Security Act of 1947.

In conclusion, it appears that the amendment would curtail various CIA activities abroad which are in support of approved national intelligence objectives. We therefore recommend that it not be adopted.

Since the amendment may impinge upon the statutory authorities and responsibilities of this Agency, I am forwarding a copy of this letter to the Chairmen of our oversight committees in the Senate.

The Office of Management and Budget advises there is no objection to the submission of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

/s/ W. E. Colby

W. E. Colby
Director

cc: Chairman John L. McClellan
Chairman John C. Stennis